



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGING February 28, 2011

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Senate Bill 176 - An Act Concerning Air Conditioning in Nursing Homes

The Department of Public Health would like to provide the following information regarding Senate Bill No. 176.

In July of 2010, the Department conducted a survey regarding the presence of air conditioning in Connecticut's nursing homes with a response rate of 100%. The survey identified 100% of nursing homes had some measure of air conditioning in resident rooms, corridors, or common areas.

The Code of Federal Regulation section CFR 483.5(h)(6) directs certified nursing homes to provide a safe and comfortable temperature level. During the course of the Department's survey activities over the past year non-compliance in this area was not identified. During the summer months, the Department frequently receives complaints regarding excessive heat, however upon our site visit we discovered that it is not the residents that are complaining of excessive heat but rather staff and visitors. During the Department's onsite activities, residents infrequently verbalize complaints regarding excessive heat.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views in this bill.

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